

## Some Considerations Offered touching the East-India Affairs.

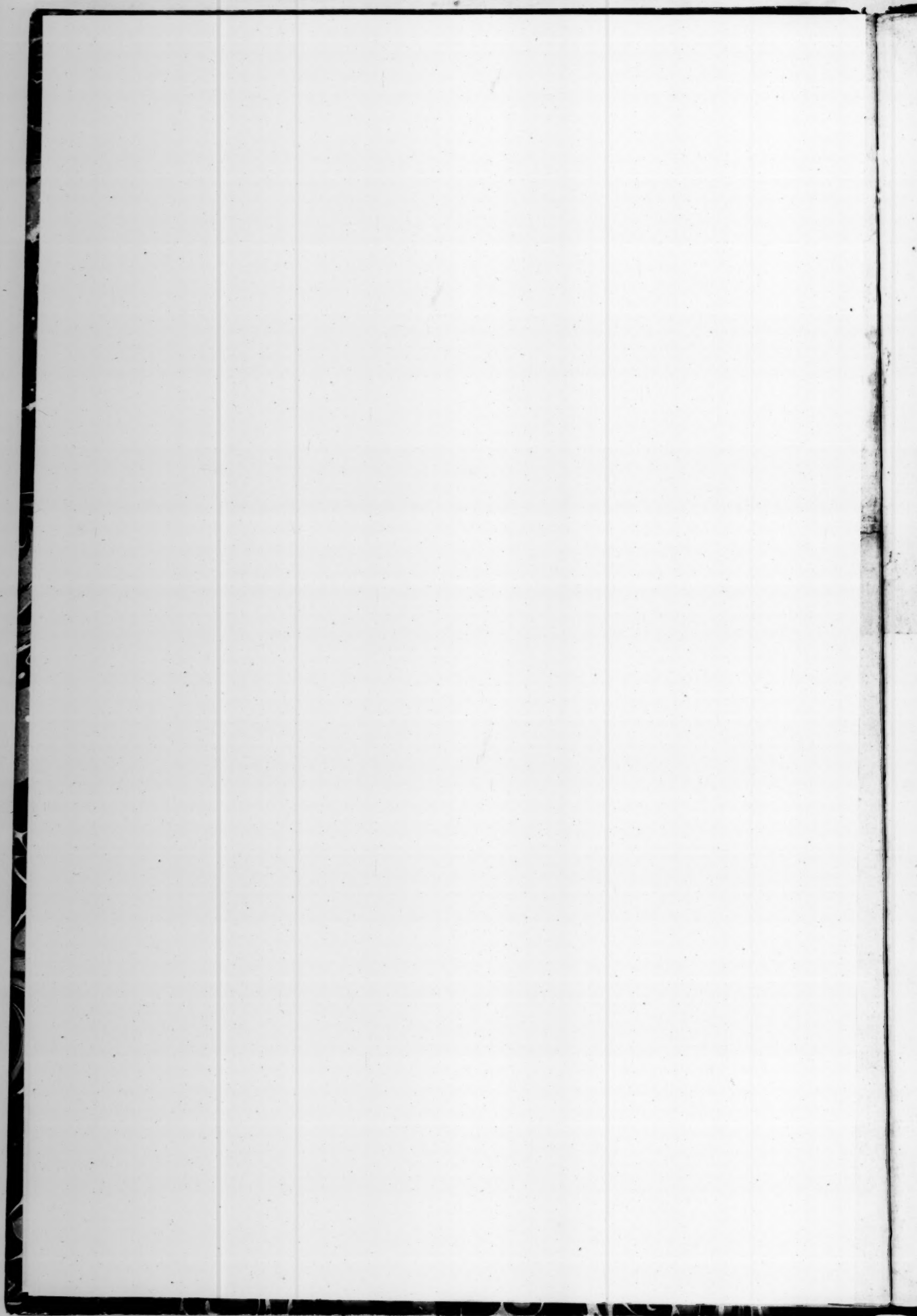
**T**HE Advantage of the Dutch lyes only in unsettling this Company, because never any former conduct of the English Company aspired to, or attained any Empire, or Dominion in *India* worth mentioning, nor built such a number of Warlike Ships.

The English *East-India* Company is (or should be to support themselves against their neighbours) a Sovereign Commonwealth, under and subject to the Crown of *England*; meliorated and improved by the successive Wisdom of several ages past, and never was at such a height of perfection as it is at this instant, to the envy and admiration of all *European* Nations, and *Indian* Princes: And it is justly feared, the pulling down this Company to set up a New one, may prove as unsuccessful, as it would be to grub up a flourishing well grown Orchard, in the strength and prime time of its bearing Fruit, to Plant a New Orchard in the same Place, in hopes to have more and better Cyder: Whereas a New Plantation yeilds little Fruit and the worst Cyder. Besides which, he understands but little of *India*, who thinks that notwithstanding all the caution, the profoundest Wisdom can provide, Foreigners will not make an irretrievable advantage, and *England* suffer an irreparable loss; between the drawing off of the Old, and the entrance of a New Company, which for the first seven years, by reason of contrariety of opinions, inexperience, and for other causes will rather run backwards, than forwards as this Company did at first, to such a degree, that after six or seven years Trading, the Stock which cost One hundred pound, was generally sold for fixty or seventy pounds, and all interest lost.

But to follow the former Metaphor, some worthy Gentlemen (abused by Flatterers that hope to gain by the publick prejudice of their Countrey) say, they design not to cut down the Old Orchard, but to graft upon it, and that they are perswaded to believe may be done, with safety, not considering, that whoever will graft upon an Old Orchard, must first cut off the Top, and Fruit bearing boughs, and few Wise men, will do that, when their Orchard thrives better than any of their Neighbours, and is at the most profitable height of bearing that ever any Orchard was, especially considering the uncertainty, whether the New Cyons being grafted upon Old Stocks, will thrive, live or dye.

The unsettling this Company any way, is as much as the greatest Emulators of the English prosperity in *India* do design, or desire, whether they be English Interlopers or Foreigners, well knowing that the business of *India* is not merely Trade, but a constant mixture of Trade, and Warefare, Fortification, Military prudence, and Political Government, which must be adapted peculiarly to the genius of those People, and of those Places; (not conformable to the Laws of *England*) in imitation of the Dutch Wisdom in those Countreys, which eminently transcends all other Nations, and must unavoidably force them all, to give up the little remainder the Dutch have left amongst them, if the English be not armed with the same Wisdom, as well as with the same power, as the States General have most wisely conferr'd upon their *East-India* Company, where their Committee Men, are not upon Rotation, but for their Lives, and stile themselves, as they ought to be, *The Seventeen*; representing the Sovereign state of the *Netherlands East India* Company in *India*: And if it were so in *England*, it would be much better for the Publick, and be found in the augmentation of the value of Land, which can only be increased by Trade, and by that of the *East-Indies*, more available to that end than any other; which makes the Wise Dutch Nation cherish and defend it, with the same zeal and affection, as they would their Wives and Children, and were never yet known to part with one inch of ground got in *India*.

It is the work of a long Life, fully to understand how *India* is to be governed, and improved for National advantage, and such a Drudgery and Expence of Time, in converse with all sorts of People, and of all Nations, and reading such Voluminous Books and Records, that ve-



*Some Considerations Offered touching the East-India Affairs.*

**T**HE Advantage of the Dutch lyes only in unsettling this Company, because never any former conduct of the English Company aspired to, or attained any Empire, or Dominion in *India* worth mentioning, nor built such a number of Warlike Ships.

The English *East-India* Company is (or should be to support themselves against their neighbours) a Sovereign Commonwealth, under and subject to the Crown of *England*; meliorated and improved by the successive Wisdom of several ages past, and never was at such a height of perfection as it is at this instant, to the envy and admiration of all *European* Nations, and *Indian* Princes: And it is justly feared, the pulling down this Company to set up a New one, may prove as unsuccessful, as it would be to grub up a flourishing well grown Orchard, in the strength and prime time of its bearing Fruit, to Plant a New Orchard in the same Place, in hopes to have more and better Cyder: Whereas a New Plantation yeilds little Fruit and the worst Cyder. Besides which, he understands but little of *India*, who thinks that notwithstanding all the caution, the profoundest Wisdom can provide, Foreigners will not make an irretrievable advantage, and *England* suffer an irreparable loss, between the drawing off of the Old, and the entrance of a New Company, which for the first seven years, by reason of contrariety of opinions, inexperience, and for other causes will rather run backwards, than forwards as this Company did at first, to such a degree, that after six or seven years Trading, the Stock which cost One hundred pound, was generally sold for fixty or seventy pounds, and all interest lost.

But to follow the former Metaphor, some worthy Gentlemen (abused by Flatterers that hope to gain by the publick prejudice of their Countrey) say, they design not to cut down the Old Orchard, but to graft upon it, and that they are perswaded to believe may be done, with safety, not considering, that whoever will graft upon an Old Orchard, must first cut off the Top, and Fruit bearing boughs, and few Wise men, will do that, when their Orchard thrives better than any of their Neighbours, and is at the most profitable height of bearing that ever any Orchard was, especially considering the uncertainty, whether the New Cyons being grafted upon Old Stocks, will thrive, live or dye.

The unsettling this Company any way, is as much as the greatest Emulators of the English prosperity in *India* do design, or desire, whether they be English Interlopers or Foreigners, well knowing that the business of *India* is not merely Trade, but a constant mixture of Trade, and Warefare, Fortification, Military prudence, and Political Government, which must be adapted peculiarly to the genius of those People, and of those Places; (not conformable to the Laws of *England*) in imitation of the Dutch Wisdom in those Countreys, which eminently transcends all other Nations, and must unavoidably force them all, to give up the little remainder the Dutch have left amongst them, if the English be not armed with the same Wisdom, as well as with the same power, as the States General have most wisely conferr'd upon their *East-India* Company, where their Committee Men, are not upon Rotation, but for their Lives, and stile themselves, as they ought to be, *The Seventeen*; representing the Sovereign state of the *Neiberlands East India* Company in *India*: And if it were so in *England*, it would be much better for the Publick, and be found in the augmentation of the value of Land, which can only be increased by Trade, and by that of the *East-Indies*, more available to that end than any other; which makes the Wise Dutch Nation cherish and defend it, with the same zeal and affection, as they would their Wives and Children, and were never yet known to part with one inch of ground got in *India*.

It is the work of a long Life, fully to understand how *India* is to be governed, and improved for National advantage, and such a Drudgery and Expence of Time, in converse with all sorts of People, and of all Nations, and reading such Voluminous Books and Records, that ve-



ry few Men in any Age, have ever applyed themselves to, and is as different from the easie way of sending out Ships, and bringing home returns, in the common course of Merchandize, as the Government of many great Kingdoms is, from the Government of one single Cottage.

It was for want of such powers to the English *East-India* Company, That the Dutch Company have got, and the English lost the possession, and Trade of all the Spice-Islands; *Japan*, and many other places in the last Age, and *Macassar* and *Bantam* in this; and which enabled them to bring Nutmegs, Cloves, Mace, and Cinnamon, intirely into their own hands, and to sell Nutmegs, which cost them in *India* less than One Penny per pound, to all the *Indian* World, as well as to *Europe*, *Africa* and *America*, at about six shillings per pound; and all other Spice in proportion. And if it had not been for the late enlargements of power to the English Company, which animated the Committee to that chargeable attempt on *Sumatra*, the Dutch in probability had immediately on the surprize of *Bantam*, made themselves Masters of all the Pepper, and if they had done, or shall ever do that hereafter, *England* may too late lament, and bewail their misfortune, but shall never recover it; no more than they can or will the Spice Islands. The gain by that single Commodity of Pepper, if it were in one hand, being sufficient to maintain Fleets, to fight any Royal Navy in *India*, or in these Seas: for we may truly compute, that all the Pepper consumed in *Japan*, *China*, *Tartaria*, *Persia*, *Arabia*, *Egypt*, and in all other Places of the three aforesaid Quarters of the World, doth not amount to less than Six Thousand Tons, *Communibus annis*; which may be bought, if the Trade were in One Nations hand, at about a penny a pound, and sold to the rest of the World as dear as Nutmegs, being about Six Shillings per pound; to which penny and Eleven pence for Freight, and Garrison and other charges, the profit will be Five Shillings per pound, which upon Six Thousand Tons, amounts to Three Millions, Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand pounds *Sterling per annum*. And we can apprehend nothing to be abated thereof, but so much as shall be lessen'd of the Expence of that Commodity in all parts of the World, as may be occasioned by such an increase of the price.

Although it is unreasonable to destroy, or Graft again a flourishing thriving Orchard, the best may need Pruning and Cultivating; but both must be done by a skilful hand, for fear of cutting off Bearing, instead of Superfluous Branches, or prejudicing the Roots, which is a proper Subject for the Wisdom of Parliament, when they know and have deeply consider'd the Laws, Methods and Rules the *Dutch* Govern their Trade and Colonies by in *India*, and for those out of Parliament which think them too Arbitrary, the Remedy is easie: Such Persons may stay at home under the shadow of our Native Liberty, as it is better Ten Thousand Men of that Mind should, than that *England* should loose their Trade and Dominion in *India*.

If the Exercise of Martial Law be denied the Company, it will be impossible to preserve the Dominion of *India*, of which *St. Helena* is a pregnant Instance having rebelled four times before they paid one Penny charge to the Government, Church, Poor or High-ways, Custom or Excise or any other Duty.

1. It is likewise seriously to be considered, whether it be not safest to proceed in an Affair of this vast Import with great deliberation, and whether this be a proper time for so hazardous a Change as some would make in the *East-India* Affairs, before the three Kingdoms are so firmly settled, as all good Men desire, and hope they will be within a small space of time coming.

2. Whether it would not be Wisdom to hear first from *India*, how the *Dutch* Company will behave themselves there upon this great Revolution, that hath lately happened in these Kingdoms?

3. To consider how the Companies great Ships should be employ'd between the New and Old Company, whereof four are in their Majesties Service; three at home that will carry from Seventy to Eighty Guns each; Eight or Ten more that are suddenly expected Home, and very many more left in the Country. Because, If the present Company must be dissolved, four or five years hence they can employ but few of them, because their business must be to bring in, not to scatter their Estates. The New Company whatever men may pretend can't have a Stock to employ half that Number of great Ships in many Years to come, and those great Ships must in Consequence be broke up, for no other Trade will find them bread but that of *India*.

4. Whe-

4. Whether Grafting upon the Present Company, or making a new one will not necessarily cause Division and Confusions in the Committees Councils, which can never happen at so ill a Time as this, when it is said, The *Dutch* Company have already this Year sent very great Forces, and are sending out a far greater for *India*, while at the same time the *English* can't get to Sea that single Ship the *Herbert*, which hath lain three Months at *Gravesend* full Loaden with Necessaries for the Companies Forts, Seamen and some Souldiers on Board her, by reason of the present Prejs and Embargo.

5. Is it not extremely necessary, That before any hasty change be made, the *English* Nation should see what use the *Dutch* Company in *India* would make upon the great over-balance of Power in *India* they are like to have next Summer by reason of the advantage they have at present of getting many Ships to Sea, (while this Company can't get out that single Ship aforesaid) if they should attempt any of the Companies three *Pepper-Forts* in their own Names, or in the Name of the young King of *Bantam*, or any of their Confederate or Vassal *Indian* Princes, would not *England* Repent too late? And if any of those Garrisons should fail or desert for want of Supplies from *Europe*, or upon News of the Companies being out of Favour in *England*, which the Interlopers and *Dutch* Company will not fail to aggravate and magnifie to the Natives, will not such an Error be fatal to this Kingdom? How can it hereafter be mended, or who shall do it the old Company being mortified by the late discouragements they have met with after all their great Services for their Country, and the New One whatever is pretended will never be able to do it.

6. If the *Dutch* Company by reason of the Discouragement and Interruption given the *English* Company, should arrive at the sole Engrosment of *Pepper*, would not the next Commodity most proper for them to engros, be *Saltpetre*, and what will be the Consequences thereof? After they have once all the *Pepper*, they may do all things, and every thing they have a mind to in *India* at their own good Will and Pleasure without possibility of prevention. And we dare confidently aver and think it our bounden Duty to God and our Countrey before it be too late to affirm positively, That if the *English* Company be not arm'd with the same Authority and Priviledges as the *Dutch East-India* Company are; The *English* Empire and Dominion in *India* will certainly and quickly be lost, and the loss of the Trade must follow that in a short time after, or as soon as the *Dutch* Company please. That Nation being so wise in the Affairs of those Eastern Countries, that they never made any Change of their Company after it was once settled nor abridged them of any Power, but rather encreased their Authority.